

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 126725 TOSEC 020164

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 3046 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON MADRID
PARIS AND NATO 30 MAY 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T LISBON 3046

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS IMMEDIATE INFO TO: COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD
AZORES, CINCLANT NORFOLK VA, DIA WASHDC, USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
GERMANY, USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POSSIBLE AZORES REVOLT

REF: (A) PONTA DELGADA 162; (B) USUN 1706 (NOTAL)

1. I AM CERTAIN DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF IMPLICATIONS IN CONNECTION
WITH DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED REF (A), WHILE WE HAVE BEEN AWARE OF
SEPARATIST GROUPS IN VARIOUS STAGES OF FORMATION, THIS IS FIRST
INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE MILITARY INITIATIVE. IF INDEED SEPARATISTS
HAVE SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY SUPPORT THIS COULD MAKE A SIGNIFICANT
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DIFFERENCE. IF THEY DO NOT, FAILURE SEEMS VIRTUALLY ASSURED

WITH ALL THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES THAT IMPLIES FOR
USG-GOP RELATIONS. IT IS USUAL IN THESE KINDS OF
SITUATIONS FOR PLOTTERS TO EXAGGERATE THEIR STRENGTH IN
ORDER TO ENLIST OUR SUPPORT.

2. POPULAR SUPPORT: CONSERVATIVE CAST OF POPULATION
COUPLED WITH INCREASINGLY LEFTIST TREND IN LISBON LEADS US
TO BELIEVE THAT AZORES POPULATION WOULD SYMPATHIZE WITH SEPARATISTS
MOVEMENT, PROVIDED THAT MOVEMENT HAD EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP
AND REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS. SUCH SYMPATHY COULD BE
IMPORTANT. WE QUESTION, HOWEVER, WHETHER POPULATION WOULD
BECOME INVOLVED IN SIGNIFICANT PROPORTIONS IN VIOLENCE,
EITHER ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER.

3. REACTION ON MAINLAND: WE DOUBT AZORES REVOLT WOULD
STIMULATE A COMPLEMENTARY UPRISING IN MAINLAND PORTUGAL.
HOWEVER, IF UPRISING APPEARS TO HAVE SOME PROSPECT OF
SUCCESS, ELP AND OTHER CLANDESTINE OPPOSITION GROUPS MIGHT
TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SITUATION AND INITIATE OPERATIONS
HERE.

4. SPINOLA: WE ARE PARTICULARLY ALERT TO POSSIBLE SPINOLA
INVOLVEMENT. HIS PROPOSED MAY 30 TO TRAVEL TO U.S. COULD
BE LINKED TO AN ATTEMPTED AZORES REVOLT, AND HIS PRESENCE IN
U.S. COULD BE AN ATTEMPT TO FORCE USG HAND. RUMORS ALREADY
EXIST IN LISBON THAT HE IS HEADING FOR THE AZORES,
AND WE NOTE THAT AMBASSADOR TO UN VIEGA SIMAO,
SPINOLA INTIMATE, TOLD AMBASSADOR BENNETT ON MAY 21
"CHANGED IN LISBON HAD ONCE BEFORE BEEN AFFECTED FROM
MOVEMENT BASED IN AZORES" (REF B).

5. IF SPINOLA PARTICIPATES AND IF ELP AND OTHERS JOIN
IN, WE FORESEE A DRAWING TOGETHER OF THE MAJOR POWER
CENTERS -- MILITARY AND CIVILIAN, TO DEFEND THE TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY OF PORTUGAL. SPINOLA CONTINUES TO OVERESTIMATE
HIS OWN SUPPORT IN THE MILITARY, HIS INVOLVEMENT COULD SERVE
AS A RALLYING POINT FOR THE LEFTISTS.

6. REACTION AGAINST U.S.: UNLESS IT ENDED WITH TERMINATION
OF AFM CONTROL OF GOP -- WHICH APPEARS UNLIKELY -- REVOLT
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IN AZORES WOULD HAVE HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES FOR USG-GOP
RELATIONS -- WITH OBVIOUS NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE
OF LAJES. IF REVOLT DOES BREAK OUT, THE USG IS CERTAIN TO
BE DENOUNCED. ONE IMMEDIATE RESULT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY
BE ATTACKS ON U.S. INSTALLATIONS IN PORTUGAL. CONTINGENCY
PLANNING TO PROTECT U.S. PERSONNEL IN PONTA DELGADA, LAJES,
OPORTO, AND LISBON SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

7. STANAVFORLANT: DEPT. IS AWARE THAT STANAVFORLANT'S
EIGHT SHIPS, INCLUDING U.S. FRIGATE USS EDWARD MCDONNELL,
WILL BE PORTED IN LISBON UNTIL JUNE 3.
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UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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